



# International Academy

SoCal

## Referee Handbook Fall 2021

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## International Academy SoCal

### Liverpool FC International Academy SoCal

#### Who we are

LFC International Academy is the global youth coaching arm of LFC.

- Coaching curriculum & techniques used at the Academy in Liverpool.
- Teaches participants how to play The Liverpool Way across the world.

LFC International Academy SoCal is the official partner of LFC:

- Deliver coaching & maintain high standards expected by LFC.
- Train players under the tutelage of LFCIA accredited coaches.
- Use unique coaching methods of Liverpool FC - improve players technically and tactically whilst learning key life skills of the Liverpool way

#### Our “Why”

Valuable life lessons, unique opportunities and extraordinary experiences.

#### Junior Reds

What is Junior Reds

- Fun instruction-based soccer league for 4 to 14-year-old boys and girls.
  - Combines learning in a fun and positive environment.
  - 1 practice per week, small sided game on Saturday.

Why it exists

- Through volunteer coaching and by playing in a fun-filled environment which encourages learning, this program will provide children with the foundation to enjoy the game of soccer for many years to come.



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## **Role of a coach**

### **Coaches Pledge**

- I will instill the correct attitude towards training and games.
- I will teach my players transferable skills that they can use in all areas of life.
- I will show respect to everyone involved in the game including officials, opposing players, coaches, and spectators. I will manage my sidelines to the same standards and discourage my parents from shouting out or coaching.
- I will not engage in rude, offensive, or abusive behavior (this includes excessive celebration by me or my players)
- I will not shout at players for making mistakes.
- I will praise and provide constructive positive feedback.
- I will treat each player with the same amount of respect.
- I will encourage parental support and help educate our parents on soccer development.
- I will keep learning and developing as a coach including attending coach mentoring sessions.
- I will promote fair play among my team.
- During games, I will adopt a “question” and “decision” approach to coaching and, rather than just instruct, I will encourage players to learn through problem solving.
- I will not allow my team to dominate another team by more than a 4 goal differential.
- I understand that should one team be winning by a 4 or more goal margin, the opponents can add in an additional player onto the field until such time as that deficit is reduced to 3
- All my players will play at least 50% of each game with the aim of equal playing time.
- All my players will be allowed to play in every position, including goalkeeper, during the season.
- With the exception of the end of season tournament, if the opposing team arrives with fewer players, I will offer to loan a player or I will play with the same amount of players as my opponent.
- I understand that referees may manage any negative conduct of my players, parents and coaches, including myself, during games and I will act accordingly



## International Academy SoCal

### Rules

#### Applicable to all divisions:

1. Only players registered & assigned to the team may play. **No guest players permitted.**
2. Coaches are not permitted on the field of play during games. Unless beckoned by the referee to treat an injured player .
3. Teams must be on opposite sides of the field unless tents are set up on same side.
  - a. The home team will have the first choice of sides.
  - b. Spectators stay at their team's side or opposite their tent.
    - i. No one behind or around the goals.
    - ii. Players only at the tents.
4. Home team provides the game ball, and will have the choice of which side to attack. The away team will start the first kickoff .
5. Substitutions can be made at any game stoppage with a prior referee permission.
6. Players must wear soccer cleats, No football or baseball cleats allowed. Shin-guards are mandatory .
7. Equal playing time rule - All squad members must receive equal playing time with at least 50% per player for each game.
8. All positions rule - All squad members must be given regular experience playing in all positions.
9. Equal numbers rule - If a team has too few players, the other must lend them willing subs or withdraw players to make numbers even.
10. The format of play shall be in accordance with the LFC IA Format of Play table. In extreme weather, games may be shortened at LFC IA or assigned referees discretion.
11. Games will be played with FIFA laws with the following bylaws per age group
12. **When a 4 goal differential occurs, the opponent can add another player until it reduces to 3**
13. Players are not required to have numbers on jerseys if numbered jerseys are not provided.
14. Substitutions can be made on any stoppage.



### **6U Rules and Bylaws:**

1. Soccer ball size - 3
2. Heading is not permitted. Any heading will result in an indirect free kick.
3. The game will be played at a small sided field with no offside
4. Game duration = 4 x 10 minutes periods with 2 minutes break in between and teams changing direction at half time.
5. All Free-Kicks are indirect, no penalty kicks. Opponents must be 6 yards away from the ball
6. Small goals, NO Goalkeepers. Teams are not permitted to have a player permanently positioned in front of defending goal
7. Throw ins are replaced by "pass ins". A pass in is not to be a kick at goal, it is to get the ball back into play, on the ground, and should be to retain possession.
8. No corner kicks - all restarts from a ball going behind the goal shall be a goal kick.
9. Referees, who are likely to be youth referees, are not to coach the players, they may overlook incidental handballs for the sake of the game-flow and fun for the kids.
10. The referee decisions are final. The referee may report the scores to the field coordinator but there are no standings at this age. Coaches are required to keep the score close and no more than a 4-goal differential.

### **7U - 10U Rules and Bylaws:**

1. Soccer ball size - 3 shall be used for 7U and 8U; size 4 shall be used for 9U and 10U
2. Heading is not permitted. Any heading will result in an indirect free kick.
3. The format of play shall be in accordance with the LFC IA Format of Play table<sup>\*\*\*</sup>.
4. All Free-Kicks are indirect. Opponents must be 8 yards away from the ball.
5. Penalty area = 10/12 yards from corner flag along sideline and across the width of the field and will be marked by discs.
6. There are no penalty kicks. Any infringement in the penalty area will be an indirect free kick at least 8 yards from the goal line.
7. Goal-Kicks will be taken 5 yards from the goal line.
8. Build out line will apply in divisions 7U to 10U – see additional instructions
9. Referees are not to coach the players, they may overlook incidental handballs and inaccurate throw-ins for the sake of the game-flow and fun for the kids.
10. The referee decisions are final. The referee will report the scores to the field coordinator and the coach should check for a correct score, prior to leaving the field. Coaches are encouraged to keep the score close and no more than a 4-goal differential.



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### **12U and 14U Rules and Bylaws:**

1. Soccer ball size
  - a. 12U - size 4
  - b. 14U - size 5
2. The format of play shall be in accordance with the LFC IA Format of Play table\*\*\*.
3. The game will be played at a normal size field with a marked penalty area
4. 9 v 9 - minimum of 5 players to start the game
5. 11 v 11 - minimum of 7 players to start the game
  - a. A team with less than the required number of players can borrow players from the other team, forfeit the game and play a friendly .
6. Offside rule will apply
7. Referees are not to coach the players, they may overlook incidental handballs and inaccurate throw-ins for the sake of the game-flow and fun for the kids.
8. The referee decisions are final. The referee will report the scores to the field coordinator and the coach should check for a correct score, prior to leaving the field. Coaches are encouraged to keep the score close and no more than a 4 goal differential.

\*\*\* In case of very hot weather,

U8/ 8U games may be played with 4x8 minutes periods with 2 minutes breaks or shortened at LFC IA or assigned referees discretion.

9U - 14U games may be played with 4x12 minutes periods with 2 minutes breaks at LFC IA or assigned referees discretion.



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### Format of Play - Fall 2021

Year	Offside	Players	Max Roster	Time	GK's	Punt	BOL	Heading	Field	Ref	Subs	Throw Ins	Corner	Ball	PK	Free Kicks
2016 6U	No	4 v 4	7	4 x 10 mins	No	No	No	No	30 x 20	Youth	Any stoppage	No (Pass in)	No	3	No	Indirect
2015/14 7U, 8U	No	6 v 6	9	4 x 10 mins	Yes	No	Yes (Cones)	No	45 x 30	Youth	Any stoppage	Yes	Yes	3	N	Indirect
2013/12 9U, 10U	No	7 v 7	10	2 x 25 mins	Yes	No	Yes (Cones)	No	60 x 40	Youth	Any stoppage	Yes	Yes	4	No	Indirect
2011/10 11U, 12U	Yes	9 v 9	12	2 x 25 mins	Yes	Yes	No	No	80 x 50	Ref Assn	Any stoppage	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	Normal
2009/08 13U, 14U	Yes	11 v 11	14	2 x 30 mins	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Normal	Ref Assn	Any stoppage	Yes	Yes	5	Yes	Normal





### **Build out line (applicable to 6v6 and 7v7 format of play)**

The build out line promotes playing the ball out of the back in a less pressured setting.

The build out line extends across the width of the field and is marked by cones.

When the goalkeeper has the ball in his or her hands or at a goal kick, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is put into play.

The goal kick is taken up to 5 yards from the goal line (end line)

Referees should stand on the build out line as a marker for opposing players to stand behind.

Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball into play (punts/drop kicks are not allowed) within the build out line. Their delivery cannot intentionally clear the build out line.

The opposing team can only cross the build out line once the ball is touched by one of the goalkeeper's teammates or the ball crosses the build out line.

If a goalkeeper punts, drop kicks the ball or intentionally kicks the ball beyond the build out line, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.\*

Ideally, the goalkeeper will wait to put the ball into play once all opponents are past the build out line. However, the goalkeeper may put the ball into play sooner but, if they do so before the opposing team clears the zone, they will relinquish their advantage of the build out line and the play will resume as normal.

To support the intent of the development rule, coaches are responsible for addressing intentional delays by their players not retreating in a timely manner or encroaching over the build out line prior to the ball being touched by their opponent.

Referees can manage the situation with misconduct if deemed appropriate.

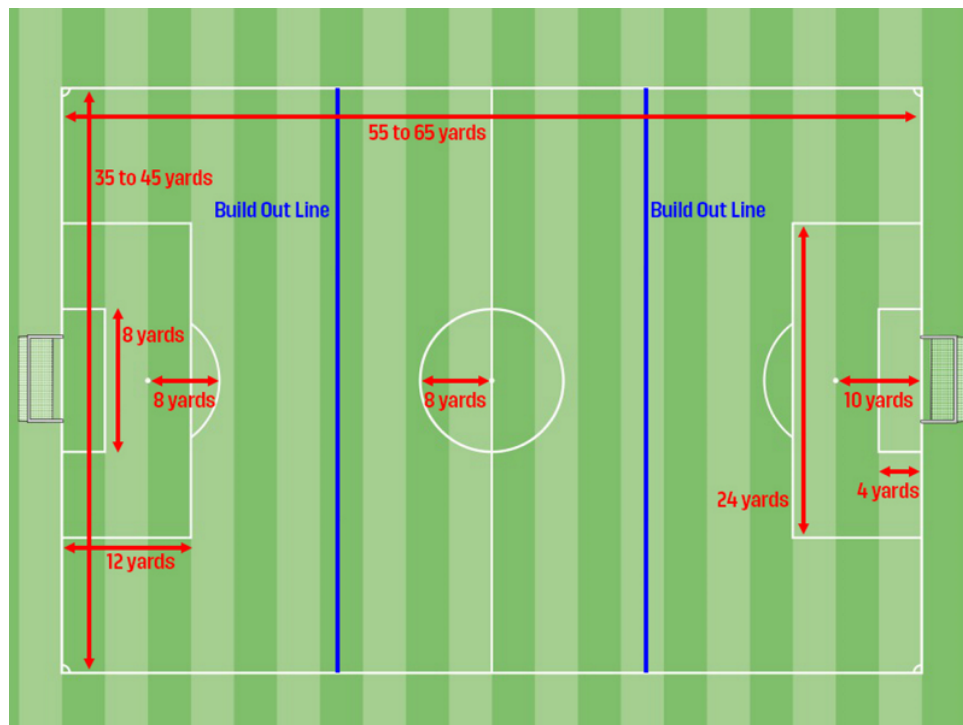
Referees should be flexible when enforcing the 6 second rule and counting the time of possession should only begin when all opponents have moved behind the build out line.



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\* For the 1st offence, the referee should allow a retake, explain the rule to the player and coach and advise a second infraction will result in IFK

Image below is “representative” only of where the build out line is on a field



Here are some videos giving a “representation: of what it looks like

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQ92Kfilwok>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJovFMAZilo>



## Referees 2021 Protocols

Referees in our Junior Reds and PCA Program must adhere to protocols:

- Take temperature before you arrive at the venue with a Digital Thermometer.
- If you have a fever or exhibit any Covid-19 symptoms (below), DO NOT GO TO the field:
  - Temperature over 100.4 F - stay home:
  - COVID-19 exposure in the past 14 days
  - Sore throat
  - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
  - Fever over 100.4 F
  - Chills
  - Headache
  - Sinus congestion
  - Cough persistent
  - Joint aches and soreness
  - Vomiting or diarrhea
  - Rash
- If tested positive for COVID-19, written confirmation of COVID-19 negative status and clearance from your physician must be provided to referee association (or LFC IA) prior to resuming any duties with LFC IA.
- Referees should remain at a minimum of six(6) ft during dynamic play and stationary play at all times.
- Referees should maintain physical distancing (6ft) before, during and after the match to players/coaches/spectators/referee crew
  - Referees crews can sit together practicing physical distancing and wearing masks during breaks.
- Subject to State/Local guidelines, Referees/Assistant Referees are not required to wear a mask during the duration of a match, however, are **recommended** to wear a breathable mask.
- No handshakes before or after game
- No coin toss
- If you are not feeling well at a game go home immediately.
- Injured players only seen by Trainer and Referee, everyone at 6 ft distance
- Referees should apply hand sanitizer before, during breaks and after the match.
- Referees must provide their own mask and hand sanitizer.
- It is recommended not to share referee game equipment

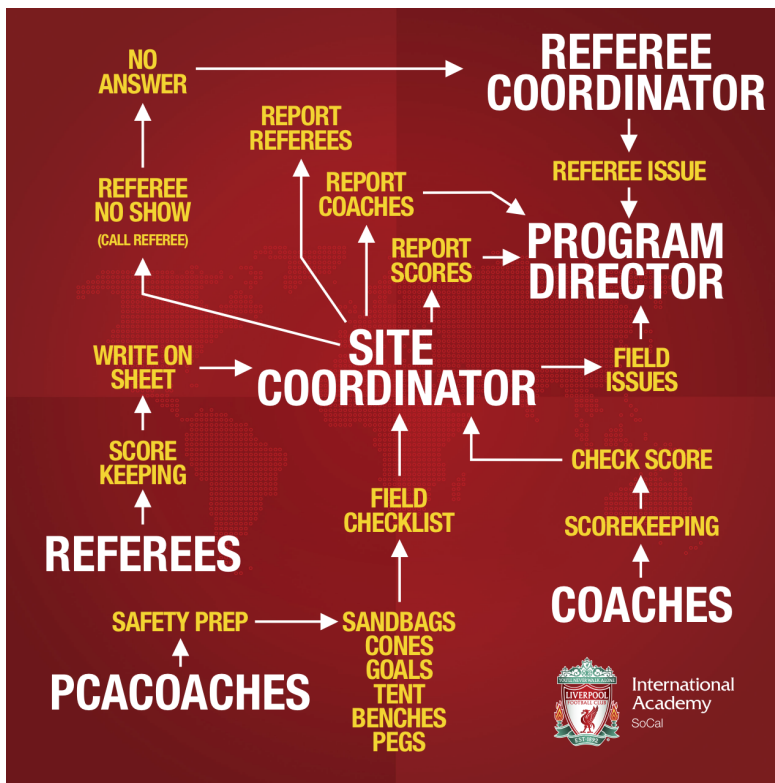


### Referee Program and Game Day Roles

LFC IA uses a professional referees association to provide referees for all Junior Reds & PCA games (with the exception of U6, U8 & U10 where we may staff with youth referees). Our intention is to build a pathway for our older players to give back to the game and be involved as officials and/or coaches and continue their enjoyment of soccer.

For all other divisions, referees will be assigned to games through our referee association partnership.

Reporting Mechanisms:



The flow chart (left) illustrates the roles and responsibilities that each person has on game day to ensure clear lines of reporting and accountability.

The “Coach Report Form” (link below) should be used to report any incidents/concerns a referee has with any coaches.

[Coaches Report Form \(for referees to fill out\)](#)



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### **Useful Contacts**

PCA :

Irvine: Harry Goodman – 949 561-8492 - [harry.goodman@fciasocal.com](mailto:harry.goodman@fciasocal.com)

Junior Reds:

Irvine: Dave Brown - 310 467 9839 - [dave.brown@fciasocal.com](mailto:dave.brown@fciasocal.com)

Cypress: Madison Wheeler - 949 933 06055 - [madison.wheeler@fciasocal.com](mailto:madison.wheeler@fciasocal.com)

### **City of Irvine Muddline**

Please check the MUDD Line at 949-724-6833 for field conditions/playability after any rain or during rainy conditions. You may also view the MUDD Line online at [IRVINE MUDD LINE - FIELD CONDITIONS](#) or via Twitter, by following [TWITTER - IRVINE MUDD LINE](#).

### **City of Irvine Field Ambassador Hotline (for any field safety/usage issues - DO NOT SHARE):**

- 949-254-1444
- 949-337-5238
- 949-337-5827